

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A removable dust collector for use in a dust compartment of a vacuum cleaner comprising a holder which maintains the dust collector in an operating position, and a locking member, the locking member being placed in a locking position when the dust collector is removed, in which a lid of the dust compartment is prevented from closing, and a release position when the dust collector is in an operating position, in which the lid can be closed, the locking member being maintained in the release position by at least one of a filter bag inserted into a carrier and an actuating member coupling to the dust collector.
18. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the carrier is coupled to the locking member such that it is movably supported.
19. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 18, wherein the carrier is pivotally supported on the vacuum cleaner housing by means of a pivot bearing.
20. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 19, wherein the pivot bearing is arranged on a lower edge of the carrier and the actuating member acts on an upper edge of the carrier.

21. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the holder is formed by intermeshing guides which are constructed on the dust collector and on the vacuum cleaner and which represent a positioning aid to maintain the dust collector in its operating position.
22. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 21, wherein the holder is formed by the actuating member which is held on the carrier in a receiver.
23. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the actuating member is constructed on the dust collector.
24. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 23, wherein the actuating member is constructed as a preferably hook-shaped curved lug which acts on an edge of the carrier opposite to the pivot bearing.
25. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the actuating member has a grip area for actuating a closing element for unlocking or locking a filter housing detachably affixed to the dust collector.
26. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the actuating member is constructed in the form of a stiffening plate of a filter bag for insertion into the carrier of the filter bag.
27. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein a carrier is provided for the filter bag and a carrier is provided for the dust collector and the carrier of the dust collector has the actuating member which actuates either the locking member or the carrier.

28. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the actuating member is constructed as a positioning surface for the dust collector formed substantially at right angles to the plane of the carrier.
29. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the dust collector has a cover element which prevents a filter bag from being inserted into the carrier when the dust collector is not in the operating position.
30. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 29, wherein the cover element is constructed as the actuating element.
31. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 17, wherein the dust collector has a dust separator operating on the principle of centrifugal force.
32. (Previously Presented) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a housing defining a dust compartment and a cover for closing the dust compartment;
a carrier movably coupled to the housing and having at least one locking member extending outwardly from the carrier, the carrier being movable between a locking condition, in which the locking member extends beyond the housing and prevents the cover from closing the dust compartment, and a release condition, in which the locking member is retracted; and
a removable dust collector being receivable in the dust compartment and including a holder being engagable with the carrier, the carrier being in the release condition when the dust collector is positioned within the dust compartment and the holder engages the carrier, and in the locking condition when the dust collector is removed from the dust compartment and the holder disengages the carrier.

33. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 32 ~~33~~, wherein the locking member is biased toward the locking condition
34. (Previously Presented) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 33, wherein the holder includes a downwardly extending actuating member having a cam surface that engages the locking member to restrict movement of the dust collector with respect to the housing when the dust collector is positioned within the dust compartment, the carrier being positioned between the actuating member and the dust collector.
35. (Canceled).
36. (Canceled)
37. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 33, wherein dust collector includes a filter housing detachably connected to the dust collector and having a closing element for unlocking and locking the filter housing to the dust collector, the actuating member having a grip area for actuating the closing element.
38. (Previously Presented) The dust collector according to claim 33, wherein the dust collector includes a centrifugal force dust separator.
39. (Canceled)
40. (Canceled)
41. (New) A vacuum cleaner comprising:

a housing having a dust compartment and a cover for closing the dust compartment;

a carrier movably coupled to the housing, the carrier having a lock out member and the carrier being movable between a locking condition, in which the lock out member is disposed for preventing the cover from closing the dust compartment, and a release condition, in which the lock out member does not prevent the cover from closing the dust compartment; and

a removable dust collector receivable in the dust compartment, the vacuum cleaner being loadable with a filter bag in a filter bag loading operation that includes one of a pair of steps of disposing a filter bag in the housing and thereafter closing the dust compartment with the cover and the single step of disposing a filter bag in the housing or alternatively being loadable with the removable dust collector in a collector loading operation that includes one of a pair of steps of disposing the removable dust collector in the housing and thereafter closing the dust compartment with the cover and the single step of disposing the removable dust collector in the housing, and the carrier being in the locking condition when a filter bag is loaded into the dust compartment in a filter bag loading operation and the carrier moving in response to a filter bag load operation from the locking condition into the release condition, whereupon the dust compartment can be closed by the cover, the carrier being in the locking condition when the removable dust collector is loaded into the dust compartment in a collector loading operation and the carrier moving in response to a collector loading operation from the locking condition into the release condition, whereupon the dust compartment can be closed by the cover, and the carrier, in the locking condition, being capable of receiving either a filter bag or the removable dust collector in a respective filter bag loading operation or a collector loading operation.

42. (New) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 41, wherein the carrier is operable to receive a stiffening plate of a filter bag.
43. (New) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 41, wherein the carrier is pivotally supported on the vacuum cleaner housing by means of a pivot bearing, the pivot bearing is arranged on a lower edge of the carrier, the dust collector includes an actuator member, and the actuating member acts on an upper edge of the carrier during a collector loading operation to move the carrier from the locking condition into the release condition.
44. (New) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 43, wherein the actuating member of the dust collector is downwardly extending and has a cam surface that engages the lock out member to restrict movement of the dust collector with respect to the housing when the dust collector is positioned within the dust compartment, the carrier being positioned between the actuating member and the dust collector.